REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-24, 26-32, and 35-44 are pending. Claims 11-15 have been

allowed, claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 16, 22, 26, 32, 35, and 37 have been amended, claims 8, 20,

25, 33, and 34 have been canceled, and new claims 41-44 have been added to recite

additional features of Applicants' invention.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following

reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 20, 21, 25, 34, and 35

would be allowable if re-written into independent form to recite the features of their

base and intervening claims. Claims 16, 22, and 32 have been amended to recite subject

matter from claims 20, 25, and 34 respectively.

More specifically, claim 16 has been amended to recite that the composite image

is generated by inverse coding the reduced-resolution video signals, setting a position for

each video signal output from the inverse coding, coding the address-set video signals,

and mixing the variable length coded-video signals to form the composite image. New

claim 42 has been added to recite that the inverse coding includes inverse variable-length

coding and the coding includes variable-length coding.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite that macroblock address setting includes

setting an arrangement region of the decoded video signal within the final image, setting

an absolute address of a macroblock at a predetermined position within the arrangement

region of the final image, and coding an address of a remainder of macroblocks

corresponding to the decoded video signal except the macroblock at the predetermined

position as a difference value from a previous macroblock.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite that generating the composite video signal includes performing inverse coding for each of the received video signals, setting an address in the composite video signal for each of the video signals which have been inverse coded, coding the address-set video signals, and combining the coded, address-set video signals. New claim 44 has been added to recite that said inverse coding includes inverse variable-length coding and said coding includes variable-length coding.

Amendments have also been made to independent claims 1 and 26 and new claims 41 and 43 have been added to further define these claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the § 102 and § 103 rejections. Applicants further submit that deletion of the acronym "MCU" from claim 3 and the change of dependency of claim 10 to claim 9 are sufficient to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 16-0607 and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
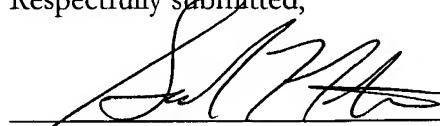
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